

***Remarks***

Claim 1 is sought to be amended. Claims 1-25 are pending in this application, with claims 1, 22, and 23 being the independent claims. No new matter has been introduced by any amendments.

In reply to the Office Action dated **January 14, 2005**, requesting an election of one invention to prosecute in the above-referenced patent application, Applicants hereby provisionally elect to prosecute the invention of Group I, represented by claims 2, 3, 8, and 11-13. This election is made without prejudice to or disclaimer of the other claims or inventions disclosed. In view of the Election of Species requirement, Applicants hereby provisionally elect the species found in Figure 3, on which all the claims in Group I read. This election of Group I and Figure 3 are made **with** traverse.

It appears that only an Election of Species is proper in this case. Applicants argue that the Examiner's grouping of the claims is inappropriate because dependent claims are grouped, and not separate independent claims. Thus, Applicants believe it is more appropriate to assert only an Election of Species requirement. Applicants believe there can allegedly be four species: (Species 1) Figures 3, 9, 10, and 11 all encompass the same species from different perspectives; (Species 2) Figure 12; (Species 3) Figure 13; and (Species) Figure 14. Using this grouping, Applicants provisionally elect Species 1 found in Figures 3, 9, 10, and 11, which claims 1-3, 7-17 and 22 read on. Applicants agree with the Examiner that claim 1 is a generic, linking claim.

Applicants assert the right to claim additional species in the event that a generic claim thereto is found to be allowable in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.141(a).

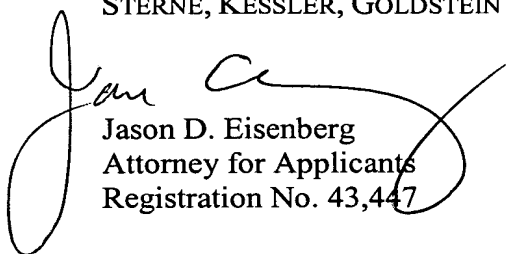
Consideration and allowance of all pending claims, are respectfully requested.

***Conclusion***

It is believed that extensions of time are not required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in accompanying documents. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

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